



## METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

August 11, 2007

Members of the Board  
800 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South  
Nashville, TN 37219

DEPARTMENT OF CODES ADMINISTRATION  
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Appeal Case: #2007-076  
1000 Edgehill Avenue

Dear Members:

This case arises from an appeal by neighbors of Rose Park (Organized Neighbors of Edgehill, ONE) challenging my ruling that a proposed use of the park by Belmont University should more properly be classified as a "stadium, arena/convention center" rather than a "recreation center".

The Zoning Code defines "recreation center" as follows:

""Recreation center" means recreational facilities such as community centers, playgrounds, parks, swimming pools and playing fields that are available to the membership of a club or the general public."

Clearly Rose Park (a Metro park) contains a community center, playgrounds, and does or will have playing fields that are available to the membership of a club or the general public. The Metro Parks Department and Belmont University propose to construct additional playing fields on the property. These fields will be for baseball, softball, soccer and track sports. Such use is a "special exception" under the Zoning Code and is before you in Case #2007-056.

There is no definition of "stadium, arena/convention center" in the Zoning Code. Section 17.04.060 states that where words have not been defined, the definition found in Webster's Unabridged Dictionary shall be used. The word "stadium" is as follows:

"a terraced structure with seats for spectators ... typically built in the shape of a long, narrow horseshoe; a large, usually unroofed structure with tiers of seats for spectators built in various shapes... and enclosing a field used for sports events (as baseball, football, track and field)."

Also, there is no definition of "stadium" in the Metro Building Code. Admittedly the dictionary definition could be used here, but there is no statement as to number of seats that is required to become a stadium rather than a playing field. Previously issued permits for stadiums include:

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Vanderbilt Stadium, LP Field, Greer Stadium, Hale Stadium, Sommet Center, Municipal Auditorium, much larger venues than the proposed one at Rose Park.

Under the Zoning Code I am required to interpret the provisions of the Code subject to an appeal to this Board. I have made the call that the facilities proposed in Case #2007-56 should be classified as a "recreation center" because the seating capacity and structures contemplated do not give rise to being classified as a "stadium".

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lon F. West". The signature is written in dark ink and has a long, sweeping horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Lon F. West  
Metropolitan Zoning Administrator

LFW:ljb